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MAE approves more than \$89 million in Michigan Energy Assistance Grants

September 2, 2015 – Low-income families could be eligible for assistance programs that could help them with home energy costs and become or move toward being self-sufficient through an \$89.5 million grant program.

The Michigan Agency for Energy, working with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, approved Michigan Energy Assistance Program grants totaling \$89.5 million to 13 organizations for the fiscal year beginning October 1.

The grant awards require approval from the State Administrative Board.

On July 15, MAE issued a request for revised budgets and program changes from the current 13 MEAP Grantees for the second year of a two-year grant program. Based on its review, the MAE approved the following grants:

- Barry County United Way – \$195,054 to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households in Barry County.
- Consumers Energy Company – \$13.2 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households in its utility service territory throughout the state of Michigan.
- DHHS – Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity – \$7 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households statewide.
- DTE Energy – \$17 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households in its utility service territory throughout the state of Michigan.
- Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. – \$97,325 to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households in the Lowell School District.
- Lighthouse Emergency Services – \$300,000 to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households in Oakland County.
- Michigan Community Action Agency Association – \$9 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households statewide.

- SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company – \$2.5 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households in its utility service territory throughout the state of Michigan.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Archdiocese of Detroit – \$4.4 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households in 39 counties throughout the state of Michigan.
- Superior Watershed Partnership – \$1.5 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households throughout the 15 counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- The Heat and Warmth Fund – \$8.5 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households statewide.
- The Salvation Army – \$12.6 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households statewide.
- TrueNorth Community Services – \$13.2 million to provide energy assistance program services to low-income households in 64 counties throughout the state.

The grants will be funded by \$50 million collected through a low-income energy assistance funding factor approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission; and \$40 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds provided by DHHS.

A majority of these funds will be expended by the above organizations during the “crisis season” that begins November 1 and ends May 31. Low-income households are encouraged to seek assistance during that time.

Beginning October 1, households can call 2-1-1 or visit mi211.org for information regarding eligibility requirements and referrals to agencies that can provide MEAP energy assistance services.

For more information about MAE, please visit www.michigan.gov/energy.

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